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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,094	01/23/2004	Jeannie Holmes	022265.0131PTUS (018220.0)	8557
7590	12/06/2005		EXAMINER NUTTER, NATHAN M	
IP Department Patton Boggs, LLP 2001 Ross Avenue Suite 3000 Dallas, TX 75201			ART UNIT 1711	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 12/06/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,094

Applicant(s)

HOLMES ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan M. Nutter

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06-05, 09-05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application has been re-assigned to Examiner Nathan M. Nutter in Art Unit 1711. All inquiries regarding this application should be directed to Examiner Nutter at telephone number 571-272-1076.

Response to Amendment

In response to the arguments filed 26 September 2005, the following is being placed in effect.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothmund (US 4,459,247) in view of Evans et al (US 4,585,848), Leeper et al (US 3,475,332) and Sabate et al (US 5,317,047) or Nogueria de Sousa (US 2002/0103275) is hereby expressly withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothmund (US 4,459,247) in view of Sullivan et al (US 5,652,287) is hereby expressly withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothmund (US 4,459,347) in view of Evans et al (US 4,585,848), Leeper et al (US 3,475,332), Sullivan et al (US 5,652,287) and Sabate et al (US 5,317,047) or Nogueria de Sousa (US 2002/0103275) and further in view of Sumpter et al (US 5,206,329) and Wang (US 6,750,279) is hereby expressly withdrawn.

New grounds of rejection will follow.

Claim Interpretations

The recitations in the broad claims embrace constituents that are known to be employed together in various combinations. The recitations of the several ingredients of the formulations of the dependent claims 7-9 and 16-18, due to the number of required constituents, necessarily would not be found within the confines of a single reference. At paragraph [0025], the Specification discloses the "toasted oak dust" as "sometimes used by wineries to enhance the flavor of wine," and that "(w)hen added to the silicone-based compound... gives the resulting product a mottled, speckled, or non-uniform appearance that closely resembles natural cork." Since the "toasted oak dust" is disclosed as being for appearance, it will be viewed as a filler chosen for this aspect. Further, the Specification discloses at paragraph [0025] that "*untoasted* oak dust could also be used to obtain *similar results* (emphasis added)." The employment of the pigment is disclosed for aesthetic coloration. The employment of ethynyl cyclohexanol as a platinum catalyst inhibitor (as a regulator) in the silicone resin composition is disclosed at paragraph [0027]. The employment of silicon hydride is disclosed as being "added to insure that the catalyzing reaction works properly," is assumed to be regarded that it is employed as a platinum catalyst coordinating compound, as is known in the prior art.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the term *ethynyl cyclohexanol* throughout the Specification and claims is misspelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oka et al (WO 03/020817), cited previously by applicant.

The reference to Oka et al (WO 03/020817) teaches the combination of a methyl vinyl silicone polymer, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane, fumed silica, a microsphere constituent and a cross-linking agent, in the compositional limitations as contemplated and herein claimed. Paragraphs [008] through [0010] show the resin (including claims 2 and 11). The fumed silica is included at paragraph [0011]. The use of cross-linking agents include an organic peroxide (claims 5 and 14) at paragraph [0013] and chloroplatanic acid (claims 4 and 13) at paragraph [0017]. Those citations teach the amounts claimed for each compositional limitation, as embraced by the reference.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610), cited previously by applicant.

The patent to Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610) teaches the inclusion of the combination of a methyl vinyl silicone polymer, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane,

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fumed silica, a microsphere constituent and a cross-linking agent, in the compositional limitations as contemplated and herein claimed. Note column 2 (lines 19 et seq.) for the resin. Note the paragraph bridging column 3 to column 4 for the use of fumed silica as a known thixotropic agent. Note column 4 (lines 17-22) for the use of chloroplatanic acid, as recited in claim 4. The use of a hollow filler is shown at column 4 (lines 27-48). Further, note the Examples for particular embodiments that embrace the compositional limitations as herein claimed.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Merguriya (US 6,506,331), newly cited.

The patent to Merguriya (US 6,506,331) teaches the inclusion of the combination of a methyl vinyl silicone polymer, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane, fumed silica, a microsphere constituent and a cross-linking agent, in the compositional limitations as contemplated and herein claimed. Note column 2 (line 51) to column 3 (line 34) for the resin. Note column 5 (lines 1-16) for the use of fumed silica as a filler. Note column 4 (lines 34-52) for the use of chloroplatanic acid, as recited in claim 4, and (lines 53-64) for the peroxide component. The use of a hollow filler is shown at column 5 (lines 17-64). Further, note the Examples for particular embodiments that embrace the compositional limitations as herein claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oka et al (WO 03/020817), Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610) or Merguriya (US 6,506,331), each as applied to claims rejected above, and further in view of Descamps et al (US 5,162,397), Strauss (US 4,031,059) and Snogren (US 3,296,153) all taken together, and all newly cited.

The references to Oka et al (WO 03/020817), Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610) and Merguriya (US 6,506,331) each show the broad composition of a methyl vinyl silicone polymer, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane, fumed silica, a microsphere constituent and a cross-linking agent, in the compositional limitations as contemplated and herein claimed.

The reference to Oka et al (WO 03/020817) also teaches the use of the pigments at paragraph [0027] and 1-ethynyl-cyclohexanol, used as a curing inhibitor, at paragraph [0028] as recited in instant claims 8, 9, 17 and 18.

The reference to Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610) teaches the employment of "ethynyl cyclohexanol as a reaction regulator," at Example 5, bridging column 8 to column 9. At column 5 (lines 1-16) the reference teaches the use of carbon black, zinc white, known colorants. Both features as recited in instant claims 8, 9, 17 and 18

The reference to Merguriya (US 6,506,331) teaches the employment of "ethynyl cyclohexanol as a reaction regulator," at Example 1, column 7, and the use of carbon black and zinc white at column 5 (lines 1-16).

The reference to Descamps et al (US 5,162,397) teaches the manufacture of a composition including a polysiloxane resin, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane at column 2 (lines 30 et seq.), a cross-linking agent of chloroplatanic acid at column 10 (lines 9 and 10) with a silica filler at column 7 (lines 9-16) and a microsphere agent, including the borosilicates of claims 3, 7-9, 12 and 16-18. Note column 1 (lines 50-66) and column 10 (lines 15-24 and 43-63) for the borosilicates and their compositional limitations. The reference teaches the conventionality of using a platinum catalyst inhibitor, such as an acetylenic alcohol (ethynyl cyclohexanol is one) at column 4 (lines 1-25). Carbon black may be included at column 7 (lines 8-16).

The reference to Strauss (US 4,031,059) teaches the manufacture of a composition including a polysiloxane resin, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane at column 13 (line 31) to column 14 (line 12), with hollow microspheres at column 14 (lines 36 et seq.), a curing agent and a silica filler. Note the Examples. The reference teaches the inclusion of ground cork at the paragraph bridging column 4 to column 5 and column 6 (lines 18-26). The reference is clear as to why ground cork, microspheres and other low density fillers are employed, and deemed essentially equivalent, at column 2 (lines 11-20) and column 4 (lines 59 et seq.) as having a "lower thermal conductivity and higher specific heat."

The reference to Snogren (US 3,296,153) teaches the manufacture of a resin filled composition that may comprise a polysiloxane with a curing agent. The reference further teaches at column 7 (lines 23-66) and Table III, the use of "granulated cork, charred granulated cork" and "small hollow micro spheres," which may be glass or

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ceramic materials and may comprise the borosilicates of the instant claims and silica as suitable filler materials. Note the many Examples.

The primary references to Oka et al (WO 03/020817), Merguriya et al (US 5,981,610) and Merguriya (US 6,506,331) all show the broad composition as conventional to include a methyl vinyl silicone polymer, including polydimethylvinylsiloxane, fumed silica, a microsphere constituent and a cross-linking agent, in the compositional limitations as contemplated and herein claimed. the secondary references are relied upon to show the conventionality of each of the various constituents recited in claims 3, 6-9, 12 and 16-18, including the borosilicate microspheres, the toasted oak dust ("charred granulated cork"), pigment, silicon hydride and ethynyl cyclohexanol in silicone resins, including those recited and claimed herein. Since these references represent art analogous in scope, one having an ordinary skill in the art would have a high level of expectation of success. The manipulation of the compositional limitations, depending on availability of materials, anticipated physical characteristics and cost procedures for the manufacture would clearly be within the purview of an artisan skilled in this art. The primary references teach such levels of inclusion. As such, the instant claims would have been obvious to a practitioner in the art in view of the references cited, absent any showing of unexpected results.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct

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from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-18 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 and 21-41 of copending Application No. 10/685,052 in view of Snogren (US 3,296,153) and Oka et al (WO 03/020817), both cited and for the reasons set out above.

The patent application to Akbar et al (SN 10/685,052) teaches essentially the identical composition, except fails to show a filler of fumed silica or microcapsules. These features are shown to be conventional by Snogren (US 3,296,153) and Oka et al (WO 03/020817) and would have been known at the time the Akbar invention was made.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

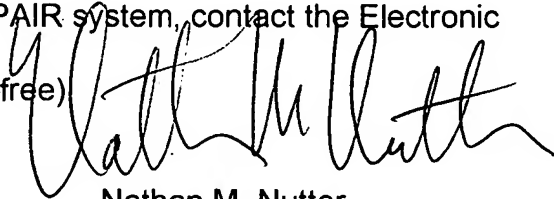
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan M. Nutter whose telephone number is 571-272-1076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan M. Nutter', is written over the text of the Electronic Business Center (EBC) contact information.

Nathan M. Nutter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1711

nmn

3 December 2005